

# **DARE** Direct Action for Rights & Equality

340 Lockwood Street • Providence, RI 02907 • (401) 351-6960 • Fax (401) 351-6977

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

## **Re: Support for Budget Article 16 – Section 6**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

**DARE's Tenant and Homeowner Association (THA)** has been organizing low-income tenants and homeowners living in communities of color to prevent foreclosures and evictions, and remediate unsafe housing conditions, since 2009. Through door-to-door outreach in low-income communities of color, the *THA* connects with tenants and homeowners facing many of the same challenges in the poorly regulated private rental market and the exploitative mortgage industry. In addition to supporting individual households to prevent foreclosure and eviction, and ensure safe, healthy housing conditions, the *THA* develops and advocates for public policies that will provide for equal access to justice, eliminate displacement, and ensure quality, affordable housing for all Rhode Islanders.

In support of Budget Article 16, Section 6 would create a dedicated funding stream to increase the supply of safe, healthy, and affordable homes. The creation of a dedicated funding stream for affordable housing production and redevelopment is an essential component necessary for Rhode Island to make progress on its statewide housing goals and a blueprint to economic recovery.

This consideration is long overdue, and carries a dark contrast to a neglected housing system making it hard for the BIPOC and marginalized communities to thrive! A dedicated funding stream would help so many homeless families and people of RI, as we work towards a pathway to providing housing for all, which is centuries old, outdated, and way overdue. Dare's mission is to create justice and equality, and vote to enact bills that support article 16 to strengthen our city and state, and implement some value to Rhode Island communities that need support the most!

**Thank you, for your time. We encourage each member of this committee to enthusiastically endorse support for the budget article 16-section 6. We cannot begin to fix Rhode Island without a dedicated housing fund. It's time to exercise commitment!**

**A wise choice for health and wealth, and opportunity and dignity for all Rhode Islanders.**

**Sincerely,**

**Terri Wright, THA Organizer**

**DARE- Direct Action for Rights and Equality**